

McCallum Campus Advisory Council (CAC)
September 13, 2021

MINUTES

Present via Zoom: Administrative Representatives Nicole Griffith, Larry Featherstone; Teacher/Staff Representatives Rachel Murray, Andrea Rogers, Kenneth Rogers, Elaine Bohls-Graham, Carly Kehn, Joe Carcione; Parent Representatives Carlene Wegmann Todd, Lisa Alverson, Alexis Pruitt, Viva Garza; Visitors/Parent Alternates Ashli Pate, Kate Hayes, Amanda Holleman; Community Representative Susan Moffat.

1. **Call to Order.** Parent co-chair Lisa Alverson called the meeting of the McCallum CAC to order at 5:47pm.
2. **Minutes.** Minutes of the September meeting were approved via an email vote prior to the October meeting and posted to the McCallum website.
3. **New Member Introductions.** Faculty co-chair Rachel Murray welcomed new CAC members. Under CAC bylaws, every high school CAC is required to have an equal number of parent and faculty representatives, with a minimum of six each. She and Lisa Alverson will check with absent parent members to see if they plan to continue; if not, Ashli Pate and Kate Hayes are on deck to serve as parent representatives. In addition, Ms. Murray and Ms. Alverson will recruit two required student representatives from the newly elected Student Council, and identify a required business representative. A vote to approve new members is only required if there is competition for a spot. Ms. Murray reviewed the roles and responsibilities of CAC representatives and shared the below CAC training link in the chat; she will also email it to all attendees and those on the current roster.
https://www.austinisd.org/sites/default/files/dept/advisory-bodies/CAC%20Training%20Handout%20October_0.pdf
4. **Principal's Report.** Principal Nicole Griffith provided the following report.

Good News. The Mac Band won numerous top honors in the recent Capital City Marching Festival, including 1st Place in Division, 1st Place in Finals, 1st Place Percussion in Division and Finals, Best Overall Performance and Best Effect. McCallum is currently celebrating Pink Week to raise funds for breast cancer research. McCallum's new art teacher was named AISD's best Middle School Art Teacher in recognition of her last year at Lamar MS. The Lady Knights volleyball team is having a great run, recently defeating Anderson and Ann Richards, the latter of which had previously been undefeated. Sponge Bob The Musical was delightful and the strong Covid safety protocols for cast and audience worked well. McCallum is getting a much-needed new marquee for the campus.

Communications. Ms. Griffith is working hard to keep everyone informed and would appreciate any feedback about campus communications. Current efforts

include the weekly MacKnightly Newsletter for families, a monthly principal's update, and morning coffees and evening teas with the principal. Campus staff receives an email each morning providing consolidated information so staff members aren't overwhelmed by numerous emails throughout the day. Students receive announcements through the Blend platform, as well as daily student-led announcements on the school's PA system. In addition, guidance and college/career counselors communicate to students through the Naviance platform, and Mac Journalism does a great job keeping everyone informed about campus issues and events. In response to a parent representative's suggestion, Ms. Griffith will look into adding a calendar to the MacKnightly News.

Customer Service. McCallum is working to improve customer service amid numerous challenges, including understaffing and a higher number of phone calls due to the pandemic. The administration is exploring ways to reorganize the main office layout to make it more efficient, and is also seeking parent volunteers to assist in the main office and the library.

Campus Culture. With a majority of students now returning to in-person learning, McCallum is working to reboot its traditionally inclusive campus culture. Professional Development sessions scheduled for October 11 will focus on helping freshmen and sophomores make a successful transition to in-person school. Cell phones continue to be a distraction, particularly now that students have become used to having phone access during remote learning. Campus staff is working to ensure students adhere to phone use rules and to curb phone addiction. The vast majority of students are doing well with in-person learning, and the faculty and staff are happy to have students back on campus.

5. Campus Improvement Plan (CIP). Prior to the meeting, Ms. Griffith had distributed the draft CIP to CAC members for review and comments, and had also submitted it to AISD Central Administration, which did not suggest any changes. ACTION: Susan Moffat moved approval of the 2021-22 CIP, with Joe Carcione seconding. The CIP was approved by a unanimous vote.

6. Citizens Communications. No one present wished to speak.

7. In-Person Meetings. Ms. Murray conducted an anonymous Zoom poll about whether the CAC should meet in person in November, with 54% in favor and 46% opposed. Members also discussed the possibility of hybrid meetings, outdoor meetings, or establishing objective benchmarks for in-person meetings based on the current pandemic stage. Given the close vote, the two co-chairs will develop a suggested path forward and email a plan to members for input.

8. Adjourn. There being no further business, the CAC adjourned its meeting at 6:4pm (motion, Elaine Bohls- Graham; second, Joe Carcione; unanimous vote).

